DC
BAT MAN
60¢
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ALL NEW! MORE PAGES!
NO. 341
NOV.
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
A TERRIFYING SCREAM ECHOES THROUGH THE DESERTED HALLS...
...AND THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE WHIRLS TO FACE...
"THE GHOST of WAYNE MANOR"
MORE NEW PAGES FROM THE NEW DC

ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...
BAT MAN
CREATED BY BOB KANE
IT WAS DARK AND STORMY NIGHT...
VEEEEOOWWWWW
T-THAT'S THE LAST TIME I DO ANYTHING ON A DARE!
I DON'T CARE WHAT THE GANG SAYS, I AIN'T GOING BACK IN THAT HOUSE!
IT'S HAUNTED!
WAYNE MANOR
UNDER MANAGEMENT OF GOTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
I'M WITH YOU, STYMIE!
YEAH!
IT WAS A DARK AND STORMY NIGHT, A PERFECT NIGHT FOR...
THE GHOST OF WAYNE MANSION
J-7469
GERRY CONWAY writer * IRV NOVICK + FRANK McLAUGHLIN artists * BEN ODA - letterer ADRIENNE ROY - colorist * DICK GIORDANO editor

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LET ONE'A THE OTHER KIDS SPEND A NIGHT IN THERE, IF THEY'RE SO TOUGH!
I SURE AIN'T--
SKREEEK
IT'S HIM--THE GHOST!
STYMIE, LOOK OUT!
YOU'RE RUNNING RIGHT INTO THE ROAD!
THERE'S A CAR--
HOLY--!!
SKREEEEEEEEEEEE
D-DO-DON'T HURT ME... PLEASE...
HURT YOU...?
SON, IT'S LUCKY YOU WEREN'T KILLED, RUNNING OUT IN FRONT OF ME LIKE THAT!
SAY, ISN'T IT A LITTLE LATE FOR YOU KIDS TO BE OUT?
YOUR FOLKS MUST BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU...!
POL
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN? AND WHY WERE YOU ACTING SO CRAZY-SCARED?
WE-WE WERE IN THE HOUSE... THE BIG OLD WAYNE HOUSE... ON A BET WITH SOME FRIENDS!
B-BUT THE... THE GHOST...
IT SOUNDS DUMB TALKIN' ABOUT IT NOW--
--BUT THERE WAS A GHOST, I SWEAR IT!
A GHOST, EH? UP IN THE OLD WAYNE MANOR?
WELL, SON, AS SOON AS I GET YOU HOME, I'LL SEE ABOUT THAT...
2

...JIM, I'M NOT SURE I FOLLOW YOU.
YOU SAY YOU WANT MY PERMISSION TO SEARCH WAYNE MANSION?
MAYBE I'M A LITTLE SLOW, THIS MORNING--
--BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHY?
BRUCE, IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE YOU MOVED HERE TO THE WAYNE BUILDING FROM YOUR OLD MANSION OUTSIDE TOWN...
IN ALL THAT TIME, SOMEONE MAY HAVE TAKEN "POSSESSION" OF THE BUILDING-- WITHOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE.
TAKEN POSSESSION...?
COMMISSIONER GORDON DOESN'T KNOW IT-- BUT I'M MORE WORRIED ABOUT POISON IVY'S THREAT TO TAKE POSSESSION OF THE WAYNE FOUNDATION!*
WISH I COULD TELL GORDON ABOUT IVY...
*BATMAN 339. --DICK
...BUT A POST-HYPNOTIC SUGGESTION KEEPS ME FROM REVEALING IVY'S PLOT TO ANYONE!
BRUCE, ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
UH, SORRY, JIM.
I'VE HAD A NUMBER OF BIZARRE REPORTS ABOUT THE OLD MANOR.
I CAN'T GO INTO THEM NOW.
IF YOU'LL JUST SIGN THE NECESSARY PAPERS FOR A SEARCH...
LORD, I JUST REALIZED-- THE OLD BATCAVE...
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T GIVE YOU MY PERMISSION, JIM.
WHAT?
I WON'T BE OBSTRUCTED, WAYNE--NOT BY YOU OR ANYONE.
YOU ASSIGNED MANAGEMENT RIGHTS FOR THE MANSION TO THE GOTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY.
THEY'LL ALLOW A SEARCH, EVEN IF YOU WON'T.
EH? COMMISSIONER GORDON--LOSING HIS TEMPER?
SOMETHING MORE THAN MY REFUSAL IS BOTHERING HIM-- BUT WHAT?
I BETTER FIND OUT, TONIGHT--
--AS THE BATMAN!
3

ELSEWHERE IN GOTHAM CITY THIS MORNING, A CAR DRAWS UP BEFORE A TOWNHOUSE ON THE EXCLUSIVE EAST SIDE...
--AND A BURLY MAN STRIDES WITH WEIGHTY CONFIDENCE TO A DOOR THAT OPENS AT HIS TOUCH...
GOOD MORNING, GENTLEMEN.
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE ALL HERE.
WHO HAD A CHOICE?
YOU PRACTICALLY ORDERED US TO COME--
--THOUGH WHY WE LISTENED TO YOU, I'LL NEVER KNOW!
YOU'RE YESTERDAY'S NEWS.
PLEASE, SIR, LET ME GET YOUR CHAIR.
YOU'RE A GOOD BOY, PAULING.
YOU JUST SPENT A YEAR IN ARKHAM ASYLUM.
I'M AFRAID MR. MARKO HAS A POINT, SIR.
WE MEMBERS OF THE TOBACCONIST'S CLUB ARE THE... AH... POLITICAL MOVERS OF GOTHAM SOCIETY.
IT'S TRUE YOU WERE ONCE A POWER IN THIS CITY--
--BUT, THINGS HAVE CHANGED...
HAVE THEY, SON?
PLAY THIS TAPE; THAT'S A GOOD BOY.
4

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

"...EVERY MEMBER OF THE TOBACCONIST'S CLUB HAS INVESTED HEAVILY IN THAT NUCLEAR PLANT--WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LET IT FAIL!"
CLICK.
"OBVIOUSLY, WE'LL HAVE TO CUT COSTS--IGNORE THE SAFETY STANDARDS!"
MY GOD, THAT'S MY VOICE!
IT'S ALL OUR VOICES!
"MARKO, YOU MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS--BUY OFF THE INSPECTORS!"
"NO PROBLEM. WE'RE ALL AGREED, THEN?"
"IT'S UNANIMOUS!"
THE POWER PLANT WAS A DISASTER!
IF THIS TAPE GETS OUT, WE'LL BE RUINED!
WE'VE HEARD ENOUGH, SIR. IT SEEMS YOU'RE STILL-- THE "BOSS" OF GOTHAM CITY!
W-WHAT DO YOU WANT US TO DO?
GENTLEMEN, I'M A POLITICIAN. ALWAYS HAVE BEEN, ALWAYS WILL BE.
UNFORTUNATELY, BECAUSE OF MY STAY IN ARKHAM--AND THE EVENTS THAT LED TO MY COMMITMENT--I CAN NO LONGER RUN FOR OFFICE.
THAT SUITS ME FINE, BECAUSE I BELIEVE THE BEST POLITICIAN IS THE MAN WHO MOVES BEHIND THE SCENES.
WE HAVE A CAMPAIGN FOR MAYOR GOING ON RIGHT NOW.
I'VE TAKEN AN INTEREST.
COUNCILMAN ARTHUR REEVES... AND BUSINESSMAN HAMILTON HILL.
WE'RE GOING TO SEE THAT THE RIGHT MAN WINS!
5

"THE RIGHT MAN...? WHICH MAN IS THAT?
GENTLEMEN, THAT'S SIMPLE--THE RIGHT MAN IS MY MAN.
I OWN ONE OF THOSE CANDIDATES, MY FRIENDS...
...AND WE'RE GOING TO MAKE HIM THE NEXT MAYOR OF GOTHAM CITY!
THE BATCAVE...
...BENEATH THE WAYNE FOUNDATION BUILDING...
...PART OF AN ABANDONED SUBWAY STATION, BUILT DURING THE DEPRESSION DAYS PRIOR TO WORLD WAR TWO...
WE'VE OPERATED OUT OF THE CITY FOR SO MANY YEARS, ALFRED, THERE ARE TIMES WHEN I ALMOST FORGET WE EVER HAD ANOTHER BATCAVE...
SURELY THE OLD BATCAVE UNDER WAYNE MANOR IS WELL HIDDEN, SIR?
DIDN'T YOU SEAL ALL THE OLD EXITS WHEN WE RE-LOCATED?
I ALWAYS THOUGHT SO, ALFRED.
BUT IF GORDON AND A TROOP OF GOTHAM POLICE ARE GOING TO BE EXPLORING THE OLD BUILDING, FOR WHATEVER REASON--
--I MUST BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN MY SECRET IS SAFE!
AH, THE OLD MAPS, SIR.
IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I LOOKED AT THEM.

THE COMPUTER AUTOMATICALLY UP-DATES ITS VISUAL REPRESENTATIONS TO INCLUDE CURRENT INFORMATION--
--SO IF ONE OF THESE ENTRANCES TO THE BATCAVE IS UNSEALED--
BATMOBILE ENTRANCE & EXIT RAMP
ELEVATOR
THIS COMPUTER MAP WILL REVEAL IT.
THE BATMOBILE EXIT RAMP IS SEALED... SO IS THE LIBRARY ELEVATOR...
LIBRARY
ELEVATOR
...BUT I STILL HAVE A NAGGING SENSE THAT--ALFRED, LOOK!
STAIRWAY TO GRANDFATHER CLOCK
THE DOOR TO THE GRANDFATHER CLOCK IN THE MAIN HALL-- IT'S OPEN!
THAT'S WHAT MY SUBCONSCIOUS HAS BEEN TRYING TO WARN ME ABOUT.
HOW COULD IT HAVE HAPPENED, SIR?
ANY NUMBER OF WAYS, ALFRED.
ALL OF THEM BOIL DOWN TO ONE THING--CARELESSNESS!
WHAT NOW, SIR?
IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS, ALFRED.
I'VE GOT TO STOP GORDON FROM SEARCHING WAYNE MANOR--
--ANY WAY I CAN!
SOON, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF GOTHAM CITY...
SO THIS IS WAYNE MANOR.
AND YOU THINK IT'S HAUNTED, COMMISSIONER?
I WAS HOPING YOU'D BE ABLE TO TELL US THAT, DR. THIRTEEN.
YOU'RE THE MAN THEY CALL THE GHOST BREAKER, NOT I.
GHOSTS, GENTLEMEN? ARE YOU SERIOUS?
APPARENTLY COMMISSIONER GORDON IS DEADLY SERIOUS, MISS CRUM.
AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOTHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY--
--I INSIST ON AN EXPLANATION!
7

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW MISS CRUM.
"FOR SEVERAL DAYS, THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF STRANGE LIGHTS OVER WAYNE MANOR... WEIRD MOANS AND CRIES..."
"TWO DAYS AGO, A CHEAP HOOD NAMED ARCHIE HARPER TURNED HIMSELF OVER TO A LOCAL PRECINCT, AFTER TRYING TO HIDE IN WAYNE MANOR OVERNIGHT...
"HE SAID A GHOST HAD DRIVEN HIM OUT! SOMETHING DARK-- SHRIEKING -- AND INHUMAN!
"LAST NIGHT, SOME NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS BROKE INTO THE MANSION ON A DARE... AND LEFT SCREAMING...
"ONE OF OUR PATROLMEN PICKED THEM UP, BROUGHT THEM HOME AND THEN RETURNED TO THE MANOR TO SEE WHAT HAD FRIGHTENED THEM...
"HE SAYS HE SAW A PAIR OF GLOWING RED EYES IN THE DARKNESS.
"THIS MAN IS A FOURTEEN-YEAR VETERAN OF THE FORCE...
"... AND THAT KIND OF MAN DOESN'T PANIC...
"... BUT LAST NIGHT, HE DID PANIC, FIRING SIX ROUNDS INTO THE SHADOWS...
BAM
BAM
BAM
BLAM!
BLAM
BAM
"... AND RUNNING FROM THAT HOUSE AS THOUGH SATAN HIMSELF WERE CLIMBING UP HIS TAIL."
8

I WANT TO KNOW WHAT COULD TERRIFY ONE OF MY MEN THAT WAY.
THAT'S WHY I BROUGHT YOU INTO THE CASE, THIRTEEN.
YOU KNOW MY REP, GORDON.
I DON'T BELIEVE IN THE SO-CALLED "SUPERNATURAL."
I ADMIRE YOUR SELF-CONFIDENCE, THIRTEEN.
... I JUST HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.
LET'S HAVE A LOOK INSIDE.
THIS IS WORSE THAN I EXPECTED.
TERRENCE THIRTEEN WON'T REST TILL HE'S SEARCHED EVERY INCH OF WAYNE MANOR...
... AND THOUGH I'M SURE HE WON'T FIND A GHOST, HE'S ALMOST CERTAIN TO FIND THE BATCAVE!
WHAT COULD BE CAUSING THESE "GHOSTLY APPARITIONS," I WONDER?
CAN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT NOW.
MY FIRST PRIORITY IS TO KEEP THEM FROM UNCOVERING THE SECRET OF WAYNE MANOR!
LET'S HAVE SOME LIGHT.
CLICK!
VERY NICE.
I ASSUME YOUR SOCIETY HANDLES THE MANSION'S UPKEEP, MISS CRUM.
THAT'S RIGHT.
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING, DR. THIRTEEN... BUT NOBODY FROM THE SOCIETY HAS BEEN HERE IN THE LAST THREE WEEKS...
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CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

...SO WE KNOW THAT NONE OF MS. CRUM'S PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED
FIRST, WE HAVE TO FIND OUR "GHOST."
JUST HOW DO YOU PLAN TO PROCEED?
FAILING THAT--
--WE NEED TO SURVEY EVERY SQUARE INCH OF THIS MANSION.
IF OUR "GHOST" IS ACTUALLY A MAN IN HIDING, WE WANT TO KNOW WHERE HE'S HIDING.
THIS SONAR-PULSE GUN WILL LET ME PROBE THE WALLS OF THIS OLD BUILDING, LOOKING FOR HOLLOW SPACES
"SONAR"
IT ACTS LIKE NAVY SONAR, COMMISSIONER.
AND THAT'S WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF
THAT GUN WILL SEND OUT SOUND PULSES IN AN ULTRA HIGH FREQUENCY AND THE "ECHO" THEY PRODUCE
WILL PINPOINT THE ENTRANCE TO THE BATCAVE!
I'VE GOT TO SABOTAGE THIRTEEN'S EQUIPMENT. NEED A DIVERSION AH THAT ELECTRICAL SOCKET!
METAL STRIP FROM MY UTILITY BELT
--INSERTED BETWEEN THE PLUG AND THE SOCKET, SHOULD PRODUCE A SUDDEN--
SHORT CIRCUIT!
ZZZZZZZT
10

THE LIGHTS!
OUR "GHOST" MUST LIKE THE DARKNESS, THIRTEEN
MY GOODNESS, THEY'VE GONE OUT!
THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS GHOSTS, COMMISSIONER!
I AGREE-- BUT WHO TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS?
BETTER CALL MY MEN!
OUTSIDE.
YES, COMMISSIONER-- WE SAW THE LIGHTS GO OUT, BUT WE THOUGHT YOU-- EH?
NO SIR NO SIGN OF ANYONE NEAR THE HOUSE
YOU HEARD, THIRTEEN.
NOBODY'S COME IN AFTER US.
...SO WHOEVER SHORTED THE LIGHTS, MUST HAVE ALREADY BEEN INSIDE!
LET'S HAVE A LOOK AROUND!
AND WHILE YOU'RE DOING THAT, DOCTOR
... I'LL FIX YOUR SONAR RECEIVER TO SHOW NOTHING BUT ORDINARY WALLS, WHEN YOU USE YOUR SONAR GUN!
HERE'S WHAT CAUSED THE BLACKOUT, GORDON
THIS METAL STRIP.
OUR "GHOST" IS A MASTER ELECTRICIAN.
HMM THOUGHT I HEARD A NOISE, OVER HERE AT THE TABLE
ANYTHING AMISS?
NOT THAT I COULD TELL.
IT'S TIME WE LOCATED OUR 'GHOST'S" [redacted] PLACE.
LISTEN FOR A SHARP INCREASE IN THE SONAR GUN'S PINGING SOUND--
IT'LL MEAN WE'VE FOUND A HOLLOW WALL!

SUDDENLY
SKRUUU

I MADE A POOR JUDGMENT CALL HERE TONIGHT!
WHEN I FIRST HEARD ABOUT THIS SUPPOSED "GHOST"--I THOUGHT IT HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE MOLE, WHO HID IN THE BATCAVE A FEW WEEKS AGO!*
WHO--?
THE BATMAN!
OBVIOUSLY, THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT CASE--!
UNHHH!
DIDN'T SEE THAT RAILING. LOST MY GRIP ON THE BATROPE!
THUD
*LAST ISSUE
HE'S SPENT HIS LIFE TRAINING FOR MOMENTS LIKE THESE
HIS REFLEXES DO NOT FAIL HIM
ONLY SHADOWS UP HERE. AND THAT WEIRD CRY, FADING AWAY DOWN THE UPSTAIRS HALL!
THAT CRY--!
NOW I KNOW WHERE TO FIND THE "GHOST" OF WAYNE MANOR!
SECONDS LATER-
YOU WERE RIGHT, COMMISSIONER! IT IS THE BATMAN!
MIND TELLING US WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE, BATMAN?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?
HE'S YOUR "GHOST," COMMISSIONER... NOTHING BUT A CAPED AND COSTUMED FRAUD!
13

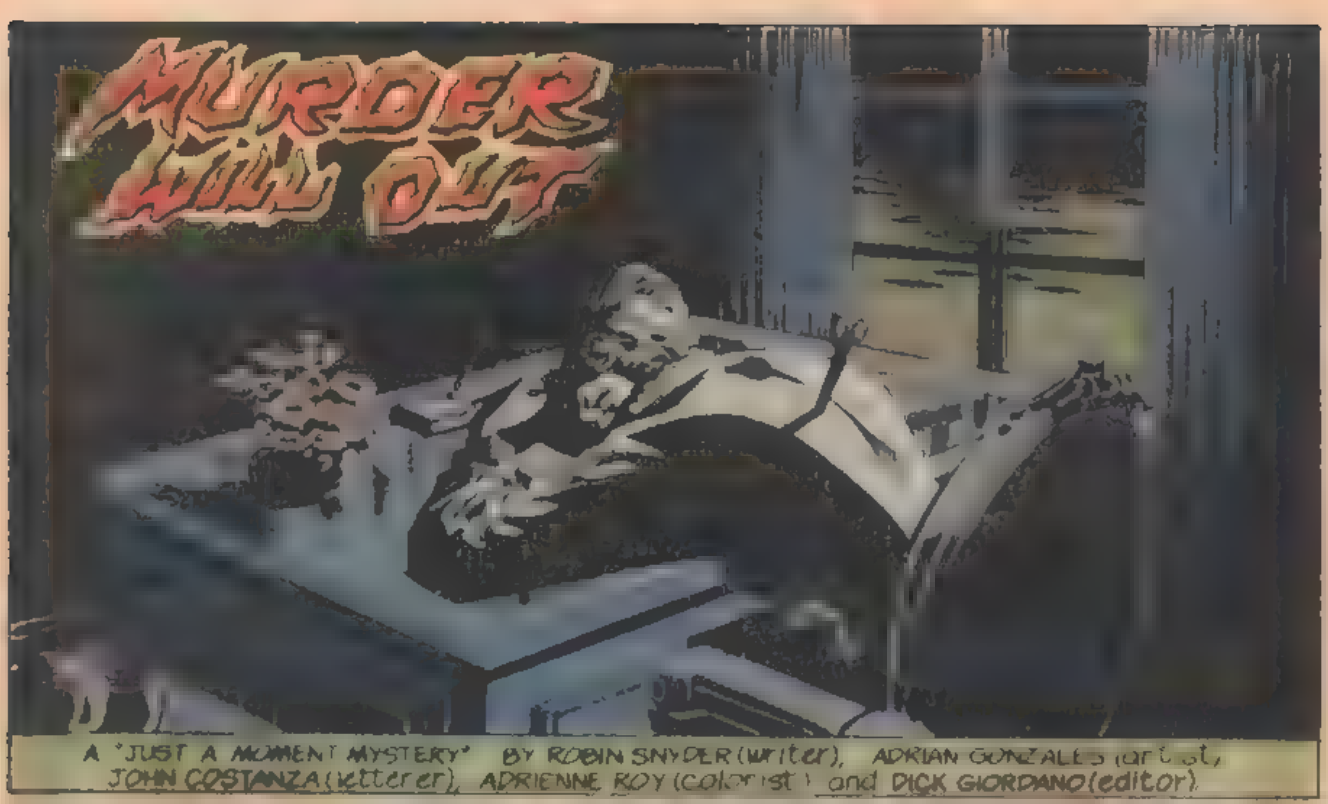
YOU DON'T KNOW ME, DOCTOR THIRTEEN, SO I'M GOING TO CHARGE THAT REMARK TO YOUR IGNORANCE, AND FORGET IT
BRUCE WAYNE ASKED ME TO JOIN YOU HERE, COMMISSIONER.
HMMPH. I'M AFRAID I WAS A LITTLE RUDE WITH WAYNE THIS MORNING.
HE UNDERSTANDS
YOU'VE BEEN UNDER PRESSURE BECAUSE OF THE MAYORAL CAMPAIGN, AND THE THINGS THAT HAMILTON HILL HAS BEEN SAYING ABOUT YOUR DEPARTMENT
STILL, THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE.
WITH YOUR PERMISSION, COMMISSIONER, I'D LIKE THE CHANCE TO SEARCH WAYNE MANOR MYSELF-- ALONE.
GORDON, YOU CAN'T--
CAN'T I, DOCTOR?
WE CAME HERE TO GET SOME ANSWERS.
IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME WHO FINDS THOSE ANSWERS
BATMAN YOU'VE GOT ONE HOUR USE IT
THANK YOU, JIM
I MAY NOT NEED AN HOUR
THE UPSTAIRS HALL HAS A BACK STAIRCASE
WHICH LEADS TO THIS ROOM.
THIS IS WHAT I THOUGHT I'D FIND
THE OLD GRANDFATHER CLOCK-- LEFT AJAR
I BLAMED MYSELF FOR LEAVING IT OPEN AFTER FIGHTING THE MOLE.
NOW I'M NOT SO SURE I DID.
FOR THE SECOND TIME IN AS MANY MONTHS HE DESCENDS INTO FAMILIAR DARKNESS
HIS FOOTSTEPS ECHO AGAINST THE CAVE'S NARROW WALLS
HE WONDERS WHAT WAITS BELOW.
14

WHILE ABOVE
IF YOU SUSPECT THE BATMAN OF MASQUERADING AS SOME KIND OF POLTERGEIST, YOU'RE WAY OFF BASE, THIRTEEN
THAT MAN DOESN'T PLAY GAMES.
GET TO KNOW HIM, AND YOU'LL UNDERSTAND--EH?
I'M TALKING TO MYSELF!
I THOUGHT YOU KNEW, SIR
WHERE'S TERRY THIRTEEN?
HE'S GONE BACK INTO WAYNE MANOR.
THE WATERS THAT FLOODED THIS OLD CAVE TWO WEEKS AGO HAVE RECEDED,
AND NOW, ONLY A FEW PUDDLES REMAIN TO REMIND THE
KNIGHT
OF HIS
BATTLES
SKREEK
SKREEK
SKREEK
AND THE MAN BAT'S SCREAM IS ENOUGH TO ROUSE THE DEAD!
CLICK!
15

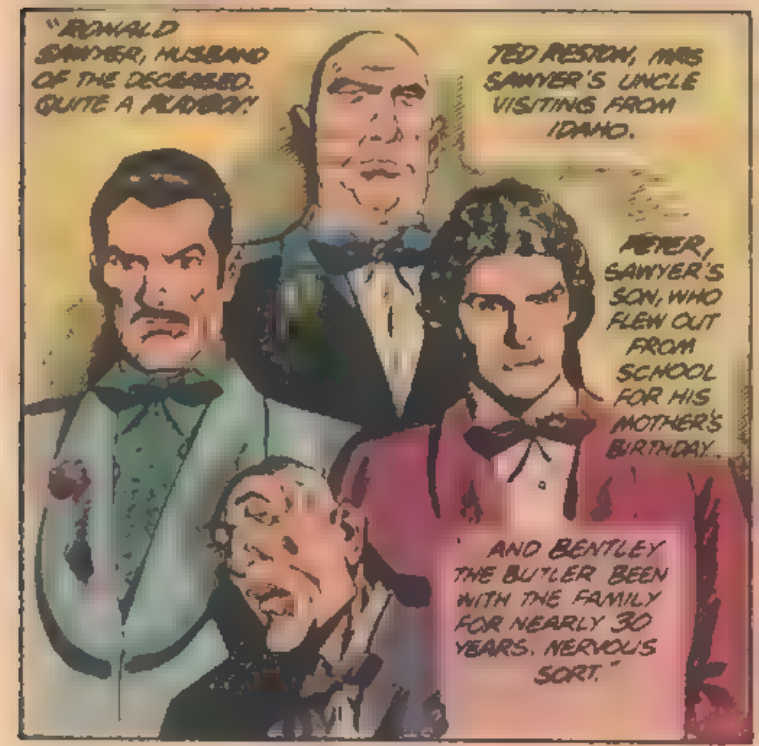
SKREEK!! MY EYES- YOU PUT FIRE-- IN MY EYES! SKREEEK!!
KIRK!
IT'S KIRK LANGSTROM... MAN-BAT... JUST AS I EXPECTED!
WHEN I REALIZED THERE REALLY WAS A "GHOST"...
SKREEEEEEK
BUT--SOMETHING'S WRONG! HE'S GONE VICIOUS--ALMOST INHUMAN!
--I KNEW IT HAD TO BE KIRK!
HE HID OUT IN THE BATCAVE ONCE BEFORE!
HH-WHAT--?
UPSTAIRS, WAYNE MANOR IS STILL AND QUIET
BROW FURROWED, DR TERRENCE THIRTEEN SEARCHES THE DARKNESS
PROBING WITH HIS SONAR GUN FOR HOLLOW WALLS AND SECRET PASSAGES
UNTIL, AT LAST, HE FINDS WHAT HE'S BEEN LOOKING FOR
AHH.. A HIDDEN STAIRWELL BEHIND THIS OLD CLOCK.
SOME OF THESE OLD HOMES WERE USED FOR SMUGGLING DURING PROHIBITION DAYS..
..AND I'LL BET THIS STAIR LEADS TO AN OLD CAVE.
WAYNE PROBABLY NEVER KNEW THIS SECRET OF HIS MANOR.
SOMEONE MUST HAVE FOUND THE CAVE-- A HOBO, PERHAPS--
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
MAYBE SOME KIDS PLAYING PRANKS
NO SIGN OF THE BATMAN SO FAR HE MUST BE UP ON THE SECOND FLOOR, LOOKING FOR "GHOSTS."
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HIS FACE WHEN I-- EH?
OH MY GOD!

DR. TERRENCE THIRTEEN IS A NOTED AUTHORITY ON THE SUPPOSED-SUPERNATURAL
HE RELIES ONLY IN HARD FACTS AND THE EVIDENCE OF HIS FIVE SENSES
EXPLANATION FOR ANY APPARENTLY 'SUPRA-NORMAL'
SKREEK SKREEK
SKREEEK
TARING AT THE SCENE BEFORE HIM HEARING THE HIGH-PITCHED BAT-LIKE CRY OF THE THING SUCH AS THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE DR TERRENCE THIRTEEN CONFRONTS THE INEXPLICABLE--
AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HIS LIFE, IS LEFT SPEECHLESS...
17

NEXT ISSUE: MAN OR MAN-BAT?

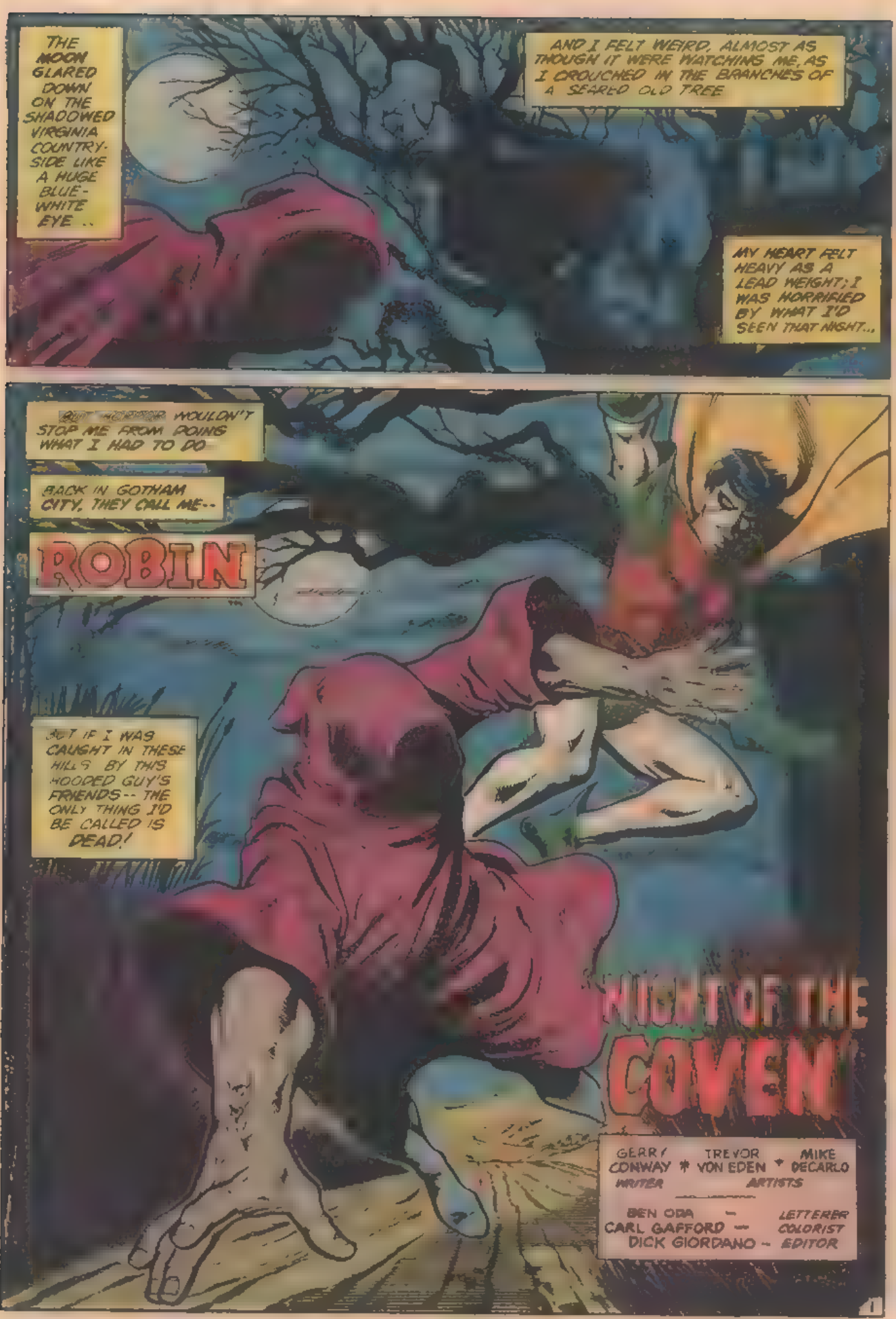

MURDER WILL OUT
A "JUST A MOMENT MYSTERY" BY ROBIN SNYDER (writer), ADRIAN GONZALES (artist), JOHN COSTANZA (letterer), ADRIENNE ROY (colorist) and DICK GIORDANO (editor).

...JUST THE WAY WE FOUND THINGS, BATMAN. MY OFFICER IS DOWNSTAIRS TALKING TO THE GUESTS


"RONALD SAWYER, HUSBAND OF THE DECEASED. QUITE A PLAYBOY!
TED RESTON, MRS SAWYER'S UNCLE VISITING FROM IDAHO.
PETER, SAWYER'S SON, WHO FLEW OUT FROM SCHOOL FOR HIS MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY.
AND BENTLEY THE BUTLER BEEN WITH THE FAMILY FOR NEARLY 30 YEARS. NERVOUS SORT."

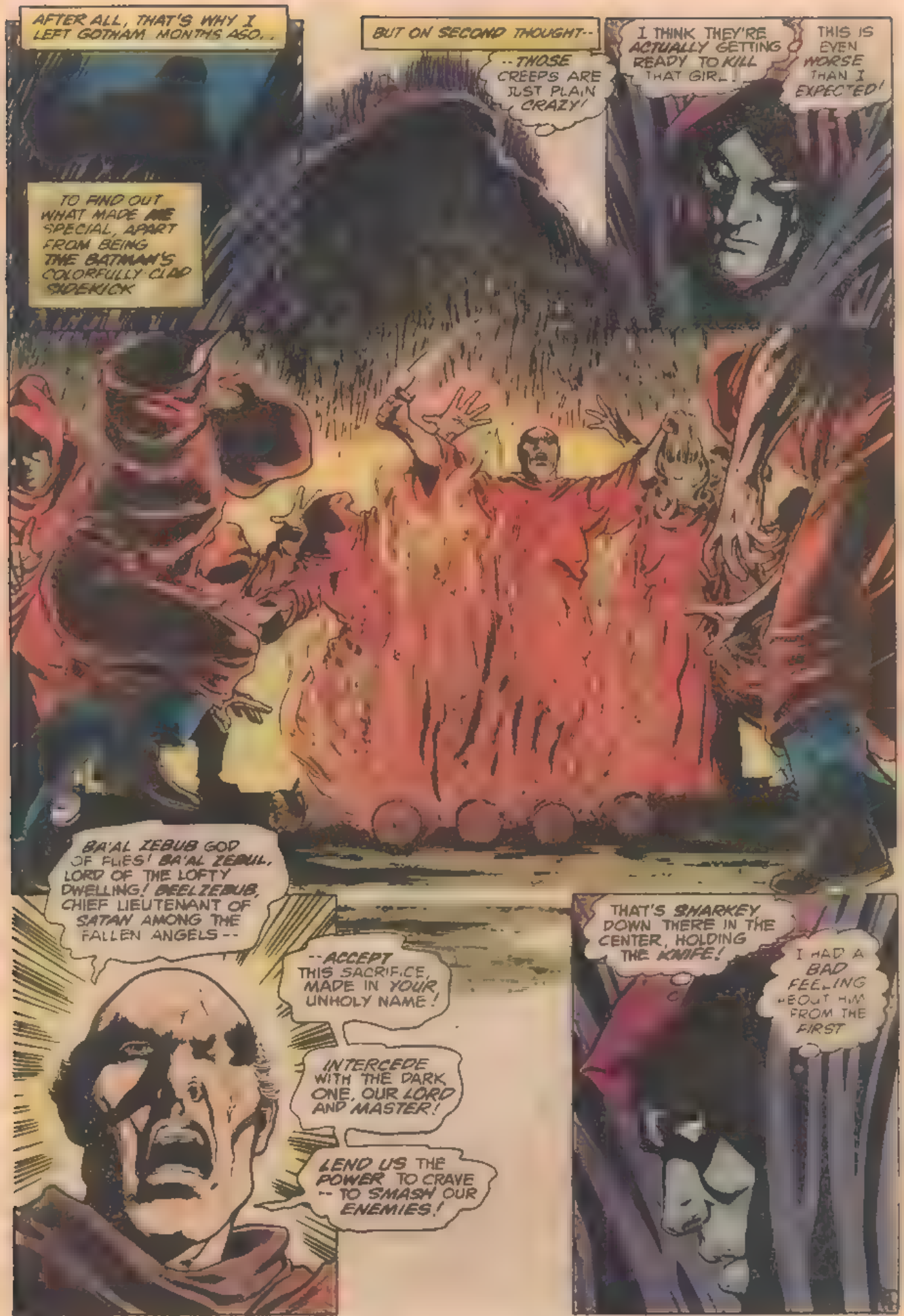
REALLY, COMMISSIONER. MUST YOU TURN THIS TRAGEDY INTO A CIRCUS BY ALLOWING THIS... THIS VIGILANTE TO--
SEE HERE SAWYER BATMAN IS A MEMBER OF MY FORCE NOW, IF YOU'D RATHER GIVE YOUR STATEMENT DOWN AT THE STATION.

OH, ALL RIGHT. AS I SAID, I LEFT LUCILLE AT 5 SHARP. SHE WAS GOING TO BATHE AND DRESS AND COME DOWN LATER
I CALLED HER ON THE IN-HOUSE PHONE AT 6.10 TO SEE WHAT WAS KEEPING HER. SHE SAID SHE WAS FINISHING AN ENTRY IN HER DIARY. WOULD DRESS AND BE DOWN DIRECTLY
BY 6.30 I BECAME WORRIED AND WENT UP. THE DOOR WAS LOCKED, PETER AND I BROKE IT IN AND FOUND AND FOUND. .
PETER?
WELL, YEAH, THAT'S ABOUT IT. BUT DON'T LOOK AT ME. WELL, I HADN'T LEFT THE LIVING ROOM SINCE MOTHER WENT UP AT 4:30. ASK RESTON, WHY DONCHA? HE'S THE ONE WHO FOUND THE LOCKED DOOR!
KEEP A CIVIL TONGUE THERE, PETER! AND DON'T LIE! YOU WENT OUT TO BRING THE CAR AROUND AT 6.15. I SAW YOU FROM THE KITCHEN WINDOW WHEN I WENT AFTER SOME TEA
AND YES, I DID GO UP AT 6.25. THE DOOR WAS LOCKED
AND WHERE WERE YOU BETWEEN 6.10 AND 6.30, BENTLY?
OH PLEASE, SIR! I JUST STEPPED INTO THE HALLWAY FOR A BIT TO CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM RESERVATIONS. IT'S HER BIRTHDAY, DON'T YOU KNOW, AND THEY WERE GOING OUT TO CELEBRATE.
THE DOOR AND WINDOW WERE LOCKED FROM INSIDE? YOU TOUCHED NOTHING?
NOTHING!
WELL, WE DIDN'T EVEN ENTER THE ROOM!
HE'S LYING, COMMISSIONER! BOOK HIM!
JUST A MOMENT! WHO'S LYING? THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE NOTICED A FLAW IN ONE MAN'S STATEMENT? DID YOU CATCH IT
INCREDIBLE! HE CONFESSED ON THE SPOT. GEE, BATMAN!
CRIME IS SIMPLE, JIM. THIS ELECTION MUST BE RATTLING YOU OR YOU WOULD HAVE CAUGHT THE SLIP: SAWYER MURDERED HIS WIFE AT 5:00!
HE CLAIMED HE TALKED TO HIS WIFE AT 6.10 AND SAID SHE WAS WRITING IN HER DIARY. YET, WHEN THE DOOR WAS OPENED, THE LIGHTS WERE OFF! ERGO: SHE MUST HAVE BEEN AT THE DESK EARLIER. NO ONE WOULD BE WRITING IN THE DARK!
2


THE MOON GLARED DOWN ON THE SHADOWED VIRGINIA COUNTRY-SIDE LIKE A HUGE BLUE-WHITE EYE ..
AND I FELT WEIRD, ALMOST AS THOUGH IT WERE WATCHING ME, AS I CROUCHED IN THE BRANCHES OF A SCARED OLD TREE
MY HEART FELT HEAVY AS A LEAD WEIGHT; I WAS HORRIFIED BY WHAT I'D SEEN THAT NIGHT...
[illegible] WOULDN'T STOP ME FROM DOING WHAT I HAD TO DO
BACK IN GOTHAM CITY, THEY CALL ME--
ROBIN
BUT IF I WAS CAUGHT IN THESE HILLS BY THIS HOODED GUY'S FRIENDS -- THE ONLY THING I'D BE CALLED IS DEAD!
NIGHT OF THE COVEN
GERRY CONWAY * WRITER
TREVOR VON EDEN * MIKE DECARLO ARTISTS
BEN ODA -- LETTERER
CARL GAFFORD -- COLORIST
DICK GIORDANO -- EDITOR

THAT WAS QUICK! DIDN'T EXPECT HIM GO DOWN THIS EASY!
HARD TO BELIEVE THAT LESS THAN TWELVE HOURS AGO, I WAS AMONG FRIENDS BACK AT THE HILL CIRCUS IN SARATOGA...
--AND NOW I'M GETTING READY TO SNEAK UP ON A COVEN OF WITCHES!
DICKIE-BOY, YOU SURE DO MOVE IN STRANGE CIRCLES!
WELL, BETTER GET THIS GUY OUT OF HIS OUTFIT BEFORE SOMEONE PASSES BY AND SEES-
WHA-AT?
UNNNH!
MUSCLES TRAINED FOR STREET-FIGHTING ACTED IN INSTANT REFLEX -
-- AND BEFORE EVEN I KNEW WHAT WAS HAPPENING --
-I'D TURNED MY RECOIL INTO A RETREAT AND MY RETREAT
2

--INTO AN ATTACK!
AND THIS TIME, STAY DOWN!
KPOW
HE DID
DRAGGING HIM INTO THE HIGH GRASS, I STRIPPED HIM OF HIS HOOD AND ROBE.
DREAM SWEET DREAMS BEAUTIFUL
CRICKETS IN THE SURROUNDING BRUSH SEEMED TO MOCK ME WITH INSECT LAUGHTER
HE DIDN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH -- WITHOUT THE OUTFIT, HE WAS JUST ANOTHER DIRT FARMER.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY HE AND HIS FRIENDS STARTED THIS DEADLY GAME TO MAKE THEMSELVES SPECIAL
IN A WAY I COULD ALMOST SYMPATHIZE..
3


AFTER ALL, THAT'S WHY I LEFT GOTHAM MONTHS AGO...
TO FIND OUT WHAT MADE ME SPECIAL, APART FROM BEING THE BATMAN'S COLORFULLY CLAD SIDEKICK
BUT ON SECOND THOUGHT--
--THOSE CREEPS ARE JUST PLAIN CRAZY!
I THINK THEY'RE ACTUALLY GETTING READY TO KILL THAT GIRL!
THIS IS EVEN WORSE THAN I EXPECTED!
BA'AL ZEBUB GOD OF FLIES! BA'AL ZEBUL, LORD OF THE LOFTY DWELLING! BEELZEBUB, CHIEF LIEUTENANT OF SATAN AMONG THE FALLEN ANGELS--
--ACCEPT THIS SACRIFICE, MADE IN YOUR UNHOLY NAME!
INTERCEDE WITH THE DARK ONE, OUR LORD AND MASTER!
LEND US THE POWER TO CRAVE -- TO SMASH OUR ENEMIES!
THAT'S SMARKEY DOWN THERE IN THE CENTER, HOLDING THE KNIFE!
I HAD A BAD FEELING ABOUT HIM FROM THE FIRST

"... STARTING JUST AFTER I SAID GOOD-BYE TO SOME PEOPLE WHO'D COME TO MEAN A WHOLE LOT TO ME...
REMEMBER, DICK --IF YOU EVER DECIDE TO MAKE A CAREER IN THE CIRCUS, THIS IS YOUR HOME.
LORNA SPEAKS FOR ALL OF US, DICK.
BELIEVE IT, KIDDO.
YOU AND ROBIN CLEARED ME AN' MELANIE HERE OF MURDER--
--AND WHEN SHE AN' I GET HITCHED, I WANT BOTH OF YOU TO BE BEST MAN!
NICE KNOWIN' YA, GRAYSON.
YOU'RE ALMOST AS GOOD ON THE TRAPEZE AS MY BROTHER BOSTON WAS.
THANKS... LORNA... MELANIE... WALDO... TIMY... CLEVE...!
THESE PAST FEW MONTHS--HAVE BEEN ABOUT THE BEST TIME OF MY LIFE.
BUT I'VE GOT UNSETTLED BUSINESS BACK IN GOTHAM.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, DICK...
...WE'RE GONNA MISS YOU...
Y-YEAH.
"LEAVING WASN'T EASY. I LOVED THOSE PEOPLE.
"I'D BEEN BORN AROUND CIRCUS FOLK... SPENT MY CHILDHOOD BREATHING SAWDUST...
"... BUT IT WAS TIME TO PUT AWAY THE THINGS OF MY CHILDHOOD, TO RETURN TO THE LIFE I'D LEFT BEHIND IN GOTHAM...
GOT ROOM FOR A PASSENGER?
ONLY GOIN' AS FAR AS VIR'GINNY.
THAT'LL BE GREAT!
THEN HOP ABOARD, BOY.
NAME'S SHARKEY. WHAT'S YOU'N'S?

DICK GRAYSON --FROM GOTHAM CITY.
TALK ABOUT YOUR ODD-LOOKING CHARACTERS--!
IT'S NOT JUST HIS APPEARANCE -- SOMETHING ABOUT THIS "GOOD OLD BOY" GIVES ME A CHILL.
GOTHAM, EH? HEAR THAT'S A REAL WILD PLACE.
ASK ME, THAT'S TH' TROUBLE WITH AMERICA--
--TOO MANY CITY-FOLK, NOT ENOUGH GOOD COUNTRY BOYS.
COUNTRY'S THE HEARTLAND ...YESSIR...
OH, BROTHER!
"SHARKEY BENT MY EAR FOR THE BETTER PART OF TWO HOURS, BUT AFTER A WHILE, I REALIZED HE WAS TESTING ME, SOMEHOW, WATCHING HOW I REACTED TO WHAT HE WAS SAYING...
"I MUST HAVE FLUNKED THE TEST, BECAUSE AFTER A WHILE HE SHUT UP..
MANNY'S DINER
"...AND DIDN'T SAY ANOTHER WORD, EVEN WHEN WE STOPPED FOR DINNER.
I DON'T KNOW WHICH IS WORSE -- SHARKEY'S SPEECHES OR HIS SILENCE.
THE WAY HE KEEPS EYEING ME. I WONDER WHAT-- HUH?
HIS HAND!
PULLING HIS SLEEVE DOWN--TO HIDE THAT TATTOO?
HMMM...!
"BACK ON THE ROAD AGAIN, SHARKEY WAS THE ORIGINAL STONE MAN, SILENT AS A STATUE UNTIL WE ENTERED JEFFERSON COUNTY, VIRGINIA...
HERE'S WHERE I TURN OFF, BOY.
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THANKS FOR THE LIFT.
BUT IF YOU THINK YOU'VE SEEN THE LAST OF ME, FRIEND...
...GUESS AGAIN.
YOU BOTHER ME, SHARKEY. THAT DEVIL-TATTOO YOU WANTED TO HIDE MAKES ME REAL NERVOUS.
SO IF YOU DON'T MIND...
VVAARRUUM
...I THINK I'LL TAG ALONG JUST A LITTLE LONGER.
"NIGHT" LAPPED THE SIDES OF THE TRUCK LIKE A DARK SEA...
BDUMP BDUMP
"...AND WHEN SHARKEY LEFT THE MAIN HIGHWAY FOR A ROCKY SIDE ROAD, IT WAS ALL I COULD DO TO HANG ON THROUGH THE BUMPING..."
"PRETTY SOON, WE CAME TO A CLEARING, UP IN THE HILLS SOMEWHERE. I KNEW I'D HAVE A HARD TIME FINDING MY WAY BACK..."
"...BUT WHAT I SAW NEXT DROVE ALL THOSE WORRIES RIGHT OUT OF MY MIND."
SHARKEY-- DRESSED IN A HOOD AND ROBE?
IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT, SOME KIND OF KLAN MEETING?
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"THEN I HEARD VOICES, SHARKEY'S AND ANOTHER MAN'S... AND SHARKEY DIDN'T SOUND LIKE A 'GOOD OLE BOY' ANYMORE...
DICK GRAYSON'S DONE ENOUGH...
...NOW IT'S ROBIN'S TURN.
"SHARKEY WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD SWITCH CLOTHES IN THE DARK.
EVERYTHING'S READY? YOU'VE FOUND A GIRL FOR THE SACRIFICE?
A HITCH-HIKER --FROM OUT WEST SOMEWHERE.
"SACRIFICE?"
THE COVEN WAITS FOR YOU, MASTER.
I SHALL STAND GUARD -- TILL THE WITCHING BEGINS.
"I COULDN'T BELIEVE MY EARS, BUT I KNEW WHAT I HAD TO DO..."
...SO I FOUND A TREE IN THE SECOND MAN'S PATH, AND JUMPED HIM WHEN HE PASSED BY.
BUT I CAN'T JUMP A WHOLE "COVEN."
OR CAN I? THERE'S A CHANCE...
THAT'S WHEN ALL MY CHANCES RAN OUT.
WHAM!
UNNNNN...!
A FIST HIT ME FROM BEHIND...
...AND FOR WHAT SEEMED LIKE FOREVER, ALL I KNEW WAS DARKNESS...!"
TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 7th